Imperial Dam Recreation Area Solar Power Improvements

Need

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 3,500 acre Imperial Dam Recreation Area encompasses the South Mesa Long Term Visitor Area (LTVA), the Squaw Lake Campground and the Senator Wash Boat Ramp, popular recreation sites that host a combined 160,000 visitors each year. The Imperial Dam Recreation Area Solar Power Improvements Project will provide solar power systems for facilities within the site such as the comfort stations, area lighting, host and caretaker sites, the boat ramp, parking area lighting and the day and night operations for water and wastewater at the LTVA and camping sites. The Recreation Area currently has limited solar capabilities, and the existing solar system is antiquated and inefficient.



The project will augment and expand the existing solar program at all three sites within the Recreation Area. The solar systems will be sized using netzero energy principles and will connect to the existing utility grid through the electrical service meter at locations where feasible. Though specific areas will be restricted while under construction, the Recreation Area will remain accessible throughout the project. Minimal electrical service interruptions will be expected at the project's completion for system start up and testing routines.

Recovery Act Funding

Johnson Controls was awarded a contract for \$1,060,000 on March 31, 2010 to perform this work, with completion scheduled for March 2011.



Benefits

The project will significantly enhance safety and security for the visiting public to this site and will decrease the dependency of this site on the electric grid.

More Information

For more information about this BLM ARRA project, contact Britt Bowen, District Engineer, at 928-505-1305 or Britt_Bowen@blm.gov, or Linda Johnson, AZ ARRA Coordinator, at 602-417-9576.